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**Papers Relating to the Administration of Governor  
Nicholson and to the Founding of William  
and Mary College.**

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[The captions in brackets have been added by the Editor.  
Additions by Nicholson have been placed in quotations.]

[EDMUND JENINGS TO NICHOLSON.]

May it please your Excellency:

Two days since I acquainted you by my letter that a Petition was designed to be presented her Ma'ty ag't you, w<sup>ch</sup> was ye 30th past, done by Coll. Ludwell. I cannot yet gett a copy but hear 'tis a Gen<sup>l</sup> Comp<sup>l</sup> of Insolency, Arbitrary & violent Actions & proceedings Signed by five of ye Councill & dated ye 30th of May, in Virginia. I suppose you may guess the 5 w<sup>ch</sup> is what only I can at present doe. I hope you will not show any resentm't ag't them to turne to your prejudice, the paper is referred to ye L<sup>d</sup> Commissions for Trade, who has appointed a hearing on Monday the 3d Aprill. I have not been Idle since I knew it & all your friends are prepared if occasion, but by what I apprehend from ye Lords last, the report will be in your favor. I cannot enter into particulars, having this to reach ye Men of Warr if not Gone. I will not omitt any opportunity of serving & writting to you.

Yo' Excellency's Most ffaithfull Serv't,

London ye 1st Aprill, 1704.

E. JENINGS.

Pray let my wife know I am well to her.

Directed on the back:

To His Excellency Francis Nicholson,

A Copy. Her Ma'tys Lieu' & Govern' Gen<sup>l</sup> of Virginia.

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[JUSTICES OF GLOUCESTER COUNTY TO NICHOLSON.]

Gloucester County, April 16th, 1705.

May it please You' Excell<sup>cy</sup>:

Being sensible of many favors and Obligations for w<sup>ch</sup> we stand indebted to your Excell<sup>cy</sup>'s Goodness, we take this oppor-

tunity to return to yo<sup>r</sup> Excell<sup>ty</sup> our due & unfeigned thanks for the same & particularly for late Generosity in giving twenty Pounds to purchase Law books with all for the use of the County. We shall take care to provide therewith the most suitable Books & think ourselves obliged to Direct that your Excell<sup>ty</sup>'s name be inserted in every of them, to the End our Successors & others who shall live hereafter have occasion to peruse them may know the Benefactor as we do, who are,

Your Excell<sup>ty</sup>'s Most humble Servants,

JAMES RANSONE,*	RICHARD BOOKER,§
MORDI. COOKE,†	ANTHONY GREGORY,
CONQ <sup>t</sup> WYATT,‡	GABRIELL THROCKMORTON,**
PETER KEMP,	THOMAS BUCKNER.††

Directed To His Excell<sup>ty</sup> Francis Nisholson, Esq., Her Maj<sup>ty</sup>'s Lieu<sup>t</sup> & Govern<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> of Virginia.

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\*The family to which James Ransone belonged was of early settlement in Gloucester, and the name was then spelt, indifferently, Ranson, Ransone, or Ransom. Later the last named form has been used. The distinguished North Carolina family of the name is descended from that in Gloucester. It appears from a case in Barradall's MS. reports that Peter Ranson, of Gloucester, died seized of 1,100 acres of land, and left issue, James, George and William. George died and left 500 acres to his only child, Elizabeth, who married, in 1716, Robert Dudley, and had a son, Robert Dudley. "Mr. Peter Ransom" was member of the House of Burgesses for Elizabeth City in April and November, 1652.

James Ransone was a member of the House of Burgesses for Gloucester 1692-3 (*Wm. & Mary Quarterly*, V, 138), 1696 (*Va. Hist. Mag.*, III, 425), and 1697. "Mr. Peter Ranson patented 300 acres in Gloucester in 1652. James, Peter and James Ransom (Ranson) were vestrymen of Kingston parish, Gloucester, before the Revolution. Peter Ranson patented 1,000 acres on Mockjack (now Mobjack) Bay in 1653. In 1663 James and George, sons of Peter Ranson, dec'd, patented 1,000 acres on North River, Gloucester, which had been granted to their father in 1653. Thomas Ransone, of Gloucester, was Lieutenant in 2d Va. regiment, State Line in the Revolution, and had issue: 1. Thomas, *d. s. p.*; 2. Daniel; 3. Henry, *d. s. p.*; 4. James; 5. Martha, m. — Roberts; 6. Lucy; 7. Frances; 8. Elizabeth. In Mathews county in 1836, Margaret Ransone (nel Grayes), aged 83 years, testified that she was the widow of Thomas Ransone, Lieutenant in the Revolutionary army, who entered the service 1776, under Capt. Peter Bernard, at Gwyn's Island, and served to the end of the war. He afterwards lived in Mathews

## [PETITION OF CERTAIN JUSTICES OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY.]

May it please your Excellency:

The many proofs yo' Ex'cy has given of your Love to the Country & unparallel Justice to every Inhabitant thereof Gives us good Reason to think that yo' Excell<sup>ty</sup> has not been truly informed how illegall the proceedings of ye feoffees in trust has

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county, and died in 1817. They were married in 1777. (*Bounty Records, Va. Land Office.*) The will of George Ransom was dated March 19, 1674, and proved in Middlesex, May 2d, 1675. Legatees: wife Margaret (who had been the widow of John Goare), daughter Elizabeth and brother James Ransom.

† Mordecai Cooke, of "Mordecai's Mount," Gloucester county, was sheriff of that county 1698 (*Va. Hist. Mag.*, I, 234), and member of the House of Burgesses 1696 (*Va. Hist. Mag.*, III, 425), 1702 (*Ib.* I, 366), and 1714 (*Ib.* II, 5). For an account of the Cooke family of Gloucester, see the pamphlet, with that title, by Prof. W. C. Stubbs, Audubon Park, New Orleans, La.

‡ Conquest Wyatt, "son and heir of Edw'd Wyatt," patented land in 1672. He was sheriff of Gloucester in 1705 and 1707. His father is believed to have been the Edward Wyatt, son of Rev. Hawte Wyatt, and nephew of Sir Francis Wyatt, who is known to have settled in Virginia. For notes on the Wyatt family, see this Magazine, III, 160, and 177-180; VII, 46, 48.

|| Peter Kemp was probably a son of Col. Matthew Kemp, Speaker of the House of Burgesses and member of the Council. For a note on the Kemp family, see this Magazine, III, 40-42. There are also on record in Middlesex county the following: (1) Inventory of Thos. Kemp, dated April 26, 1773; (2) The will of Joyce Whiting, dated April 24, 1771, makes bequest to her niece, Ann Kemp, daughter of Thos. Kemp and Ann, his wife; (3) Will of Thos. Kemp, dated October 10, 1772, proved April 26, 1773—legatees: wife Mary, sons Cary, Peter Thomas, Matthew and Oswald Smith, daughters Mary, Anne and Hannah; (4) Will of Mrs. Mary Kemp, dated August 28, 1790, proved January 24, 1791, whole estate to son Cary; (5) Will of Mary Kemp, dated November 6, 1768, proved May 2, 1769—legatees: Elizabeth Elliott and Ann Jones, and granddaughter Mary Elliott. The births of several children of Richard Kemp and Eleanor, his wife, between 1694-98, and of five daughters of Matthew and Mary Kemp, 1719-30, are recorded in the register of Christ Church, Middlesex (which has been published by the Colonial Dames of Virginia). The marriage bond of Thomas Kemp and Mary Smith was dated Middlesex, June 23d, 1758.

been in gaining the Subscriptions to their unjust Grievances & with false insinuation & misrepresentatton to yo<sup>r</sup> Exc<sup>'</sup>cy caused by order of yo<sup>r</sup> Exc<sup>'</sup>cy & Council to stop ye building the court house agreeable to the petition to the feoffees in trust of ye town\* land in Middlesex County to yo<sup>r</sup> Exc<sup>'</sup>cy Praying y<sup>t</sup> the building ye Court house might be stop<sup>d</sup> till they could be heard before yo<sup>r</sup> Exce<sup>'</sup>y or Gen<sup>"</sup> Assembly, also their producing a paper signed by ye Majority of ye Free holders as a Grievance that the Court house is ordered to be built in the old field where ye old Court-house now stands. We most humbly take leave to acq<sup>'</sup> yo<sup>r</sup> Exc<sup>'</sup>cy that y<sup>r</sup> present Court house being a hired house for a certain time & y<sup>t</sup> time within three months of being expired the frame

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‡ See this Magazine from July, 1899, for genealogy of Booker family.

\*\* For an account of the Throckmorton family, see *William & Mary Quarterly*, II, 241-247; III, 46-52 (with chart pedigree from Visitation of Huntingdonshire, 1613), 192-195, 240-242; IV, 128-129 (with engraving of arms); V, 54-55 (chart pedigrees, Visitation of Huntingdon, 1684, and John Throckmorton, of Ware Parish, Va., 1769), and *Va. Historical Magazine*, July, 1900.

†† Thomas Buckner, son of John Buckner, of Gloucester county, the immigrant, was long a justice of that county, and was member of the House of Burgesses in 1718 (*Va. Hist. Register*). He married, in or before 1698, Sarah, daughter of Francis Morgan, of York county.

\* There is a great deal of matter in the Middlesex records at this period in regard to the dispute as to the location of the court house. The "Act for Ports," &c., passed at the session of Assembly, April, 1691, gives in the list of towns to be established "For Middlesex County, on the land belonging to Ralph Wormeley, Esq., on the West side of Nimcocke Creeke, and over against a plantation where he now liveth, formerly laid out by the surveyor of the county according to the directions of the act made in 1680, \* \* \* and fully paid for to the said Ralph Wormeley, Esq<sup>'</sup>r, at the price sett by the said act, and sufficient warehouse built thereon." Establishing ports and towns was for many years a favorite project of the Colonial government, so of course the plan could not have originated, as insinuated by the petitioners, with Robert Beverley.

The town was the present Urbanna, which received this name in 1705 (*Hening*, III, 417). Across Urbanna Creek, not far below the town, is "Rosegill," which was so long the home of the Wormeleys.

The county court house was for many years situated at Urbanna.

& shingles of this new house being already got, our Bonds to the workmen for payment for building the Court-house and the necessity of building it before our time in that is expired forces us to continue the building. Otherwise Justice might be delayed for want of a place to sitt in, which would be of great prejudice to the County in Gen<sup>n</sup>, our Bonds will be forfeited, the frame & shingles utterly lost.

The Paper & feoffees in trust produced to yo<sup>r</sup> Exc<sup>y</sup> as a Grievance from ye County. We humbly take leave to inform yo<sup>r</sup> Exce<sup>y</sup> how Surrepatiously it was obtained.

The feoffees in trust made it their Business to send James Walker & Edw<sup>d</sup> Hamerton about the County to all meetings, Horse races & feasts & to Peoples houses both day & night, some they would have forced to sign their paper, others when they were drunk they persuaded to sign it, they put the hands of others without their orders. And this we may positively affirme y<sup>t</sup> not five free holders in the County voluntarily signed without persuasion, neither will five appear to Justify it without ye same artifice. We humbly conceive y<sup>t</sup> nature of getting y<sup>t</sup> paper signed is illegal & looks with a face more like ye beginning of ye Plant cutting year\* than a just Grievance. And indeed considering this Town is chiefly designed to be a Harbour for disaffected

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\* In the spring of 1682, as the people of Virginia were much distressed by the low price of tobacco, and by a recent act compelling all goods for shipping to be sent to certain towns (which only existed on paper), there was a general feeling of dissatisfaction in the Colony. Various counties petitioned the Governor (Chicheley) to call an assembly, which he did; but after a fruitless session it was dissolved. The people having had their hopes highly raised by the expectation that the Assembly would order a cessation of tobacco culture, and thus raise its price, and intensely disappointed at failing to attain this much desired end, a number of persons assembled riotously in Gloucester, Middlesex and New Kent, and proceeded to cut down tobacco plants, not confining themselves to their own plantations, but indiscriminately. The uprising was put down by a force of militia, and a number of arrests were made, the most prominent person being Major Robert Beverley, who had been the leader in the movement for the call of an assembly. The excitement in Middlesex county, at the time of the petition to Governor Chicheley, is shown by the record of the county court, printed in another part of this number of this Magazine.

People would make men think the same card or some thing worse was playing over againe.

This County has ever been Esteemed to be ye most united of any County in Virg<sup>a</sup> & never had any differences in itself but in the plant cutting year & this present tyme w<sup>ch</sup> is occasioned by Mr. Rob<sup>t</sup> Beverley's Letter to his Brother Harry Beverly & Ch<sup>o</sup> Robinson, Intimating there is many dissatisfied or disaffected people would come over & Settle in Virg<sup>a</sup> were there a Town for y<sup>m</sup> to live in. this may it please yo<sup>r</sup> Ex<sup>t</sup>cey was ye first occasion of Setting the Town on foot & ye present disturbance in the county. The peace of which we are willing to preserve as far as it lyes in ye power of

JOHN GRYMES,*	W. CHURCHILL,†
MATT. KEMP,	G. CORBIN,‡
GEO. WORTHAM,	FRANCIS WEEKES,§
RICH <sup>d</sup> KEMP,	

Your Ex<sup>t</sup>cys most humble and obedient Servants.

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\*John Grymes, son of Rev. Charles Grymes, formerly of Gloucester and York counties, married Alice, daughter of Lawrence and Sarah (daughter of Col. Augustine Warner, Sr., of "Warner Hall") Townley. He died August 28, 1709, aged about 69 years. His will was dated July 1st, 1708, and proved in Middlesex January 2d, 1709, and gave to his son Charles 1,000 acres at the head of Maraddico Creek, in Richmond county, and 1,000 acres at the head of Rappahannock Creek, in same county; to his son John all other lands in Middlesex, Gloucester, King & Queen, and elsewhere; to daughter Anne a chest of drawers and dressing box, and all his silver plate that came this present year on board the Churchill frigate, except six silver spoons; also two negroes and £500 sterling. A mourning ring to each of his daughters-in-law [step-daughters?], Elizabeth Darrell and Sarah Gibbons. All rest of estate to be equally divided between wife and sons John and Charles (neither of age). Appoints John Holloway, John Smith and John Lewis, Esqrs., trustees.

The will of Mrs. Alice Grymes was proved in Middlesex, May 1, 1710. She gives her daughter, Anne Grymes, £100 sterling after October 10, 1714; to son Charles Grymes, £100 sterling when he reaches the age of 21, which will be on Oct. 10, 1714. Makes son John executor, and gives him all rest of estate.

John and Alice Grymes had two sons. Charles, the youngest, of "Morattico," Richmond county, died 1743, who was a justice of that

At a Court held for Middlesex County the 2<sup>d</sup> day of April, 1705, Mr. Wm. Churchill & Coll. Gawin Corbin presented within written paper in behalf of ye Gentlemen of ye Court there unto Subscribed as an Answer to his Ex'cy<sup>a</sup> order in Councill and the

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county from 1721, sheriff 1724 and 1725, and member of the House of Burgesses 1728 (*Richmond Co. Records*). He married Frances, daughter of Governor Edmund Jennings.

The eldest son of John and Alice Grymes was Hon. John Grymes, of "Brandon," Middlesex, born 1693, died November 2d, 1748; Burgess for Middlesex 1718; appointed Auditor General of Virginia 1716, and afterwards Receiver General, and in 1725, member of the Council. He married Lucy, daughter of Philip Ludwell, of "Greenspring," and had, with other issue: (1) Philip, of "Brandon," Burgess for Middlesex 1748, &c.; Receiver General 1749, and Councillor from 1751 to his death in 1762; (2) Benjamin, of "Smithfield," Spotsylvania, member of the House of Burgesses from that county 1761-69.

Philip Grymes was the father of Philip Ludwell Grymes, of "Brandon," Burgess for Middlesex 1769, member of the House of Delegates 1778, and appointed to the State Council in 1803. He died May 18, 1805.

The restoration of old Christ Church, Middlesex, suggests that now would be the time to restore as far as possible, the shattered tombs of the Grymes family there. The church is being restored in perfect keeping with its original character, and as the parish is a poor one, any assistance that the numerous descendants all over the country of old Middlesex families may choose to give, will greatly aid in its proper completion. Mrs. Wm. Segar, Stormont P. O., Middlesex county, Va., is the chairman of the ladies' auxiliary committee.

† William Churchill, of "Bushy Park," Middlesex county, born 1649-50 at North Aston, Oxfordshire, England, and died 1711. He was member of the Council 1705-11. A genealogy of the Churchills is contained in *William & Mary Quarterly*, VII, 186-188; VIII, 47-50, 200-202.

‡ Gawin Corbin, of "Buckingham House" and "Corbin Hall," Middlesex and afterwards resident at "Laneville," King & Queen county, where he died January 1st, 1745, was son of Henry Corbin, Esq., of the Council, and was a member of the House of Burgesses for Middlesex 1700, 1702, 1718, and doubtless other years. A genealogy of the Corbin family was published in the *Richmond Critic*, and another, though more condensed, in Dr. Lee's "Lee of Virginia," 83-89.

|| The will of John Wortham, of Middlesex, was dated June, and proved August, 1692; legatees: sons George and Oswald, wife Elizabeth, and daughter Elizabeth. On November 7, 1695, George Wortham



matter of Complaint alleged ag<sup>t</sup> them in the feofees petition w<sup>ch</sup> was admitted to record.

Teste : WILL. STANARD,\* Cl. Cur.

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[PROCEEDINGS OF HOUSE OF BURGESSES.†]

Fryday, May the 4th, 1705.

By the House of Burgesses.

A member of the House acquainted the House that Coll<sup>o</sup> Lightfoot, Coll<sup>o</sup> Carter & Coll<sup>o</sup> Ludwell attended at the Door and desired to be heard on the affidavits & Memorials, &c., against his Excellency. And after a Debate, the question being put, that Coll<sup>o</sup> Lightfoot, Coll<sup>o</sup> Carter & Coll<sup>o</sup> Ludwell be heard before the House proceed to the consideration of his Excell<sup>ty</sup> last speech.

It passed in the Negative. Then s<sup>d</sup> members brought in a Lett<sup>r</sup> from the said Persons. And after a Debate thereupon, the question being put, that the Lett<sup>r</sup> now brought into the House be opened & read before the House proceed to the consideration of his Excell<sup>ty</sup>'s last speech. It past in the negative.

Then the House (according to Order), took into consideration his Excell<sup>ty</sup>'s last speech & papers relating thereto & the s<sup>d</sup> speech & Papers being severally read, a motion was made &

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leased to Middlesex county for ten years, a house which had belonged to John Wortham, deceased, and was now repaired and fitted up for a court house, and also the prison now built and forty acres of land. George Wortham was high Sheriff of Middlesex in 1708. The register of Christ Church Parish, Middlesex (published by the Society of Colonial Dames of Virginia), contains many entries in relation to the Wortham family.

‡ For note on the Weekes family, see this Magazine, V, 168.

\* William Stanard, son of William and Eltonhead (Conway) Stanard, of Middlesex, was clerk of that county, 1703-1732.

† So far as known there is no list extant of the members of the House of Burgesses for 1705; but the list for 1702 is contained in this magazine, I, 364-373, and as the same House was continued by prorogations from 1702 to 1705, inclusive, there had probably been but few changes.

after a Debate, the question being putt, whether the Resolve proposed by Mr. Jenkins should be putt to the question.

It past in the Negative, twenty-six nays & twenty yeas.

And then a motion being made, and after a Debate, the question being put, whether the House doth agree to the Resolve proposed by Mr. Cary.

Resolved in the affirmative, 18 nays, & 27 yeas, and thereupon—

Resolved, That it is the opinion of the House that his Excell<sup>ty</sup> the Present Goven<sup>r</sup> has a great Respect for the welfare & Prosperity of this country & that the better part of her Maj<sup>ty</sup>'s good & Loyall Subjects here are not of the same sentiments w<sup>th</sup> that part of the Councill w<sup>ch</sup> have accused his Excell<sup>ty</sup> of Mal Administration.

Then a motion being made, and the question putt, that candles be brought in. Resolved in the affirmative.

And after some time, upon a motion made y<sup>e</sup> ye House do adjourn, the House adjourned till to morrow morning nine o'clock.

Saturday, May 5th, 1705.

\*Mr. Nathaniel Harrison acquainted the House that his Brother, Mr. Benjamin Harrison, is very much indisposed & therefore desires leave to go into the country for recovery of his health. Leave is accordingly given.

Mr. Edward Hill,† a member of this House, moveing for leave to go into the Country. Leave is accordingly given.

Ordered: That he attend the Service of the house again on Tuesday next.

Then the House proceeded to the Consideration of the remaining part of his Excell<sup>ty</sup>'s last speech & papers relating

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\* Nathaniel Harrison, of "Wakefield," Surry county, was afterwards Receiver General and member of the Council. His brother, Benjamin Harrison, of "Berkeley," Charles City county, was speaker of the House at the session of October, 1705.

† Edward Hill was son of Colonel Edward Hill, second of the name, who had died at "Shirley," in 1700. It is possible that Elizabeth Hill, the heiress of that estate, who married John Carter, may have been a daughter of the third Edward.

thereto, and after a Debate, the question being put, that the Resolve proposed by Mr. Randolph be agreed to.

Resolved in the affirmative, seventeen nays & twenty-seven yeas.

And thereupon—

Resolved, That the Publick Peace & Tranquility of the Country is under no danger by his Excell<sup>y</sup>'s administration & that the far greater part of the Inhabitants are very quiet & well satisfied, being in peace & quietness without the least desire of having his Excell<sup>y</sup> removed from being their Govern<sup>r</sup>.

And after a debate, the question being put, whether the Resolve should be agreed to. Resolved in the affirmative.

And thereupon—

Resolved, That it doth not appear that the people whom this House doth represent have complained ag<sup>t</sup> his Excell<sup>y</sup> for any hardship or mal-administration. Resolved *nemine contradicente* & accordingly ordered:

That the Records belonging to the Secretary's Office & the Records belonging to the Assembly office be removed to the Capitoll with all convenient Expedition & that the Respective Clerks take care to see the same done.

Then after a Debate and the Question putt, whether the Resolve Proposed should be put to the Question. Resolved in the affirmative. And thereupon—

Resolved, That it no ways appears to this House that his Excellency hath any Design to introduce any Arbitrary Power by a Military Force of the fifth Men or any other way, or that He hath endeavoured to invade the libertys & Prosperitys of her Majesty's subjects here.

And then after a Debate, the Question being put, whether the Resolve proposed should be put to the Question.

Resolved in the affirmative, seventeen nays & twenty-seven yeas. And thereupon—

Resolved, That his Excell<sup>y</sup> doth still meritt the worthy Characters w<sup>ch</sup> hath been hitherto given him by this House in severall addresses.

Then after a Debate, the Question being put, whether the Resolve proposed should be put to the Question.

Resolved in the Affirmative, seventeen nays & twenty-seven yeas. And thereupon—

Resolved, That whoever pretends to take upon himself to represent this Country in Gen<sup>l</sup> under any Grievance or Pressure, without the consent & authority of this House so to do, is thereby guilty of an unwarantable act, tending to the Prejudice of the Country.

Resolved, That Copys of the Resolves of this House made upon his Excell<sup>ty</sup>'s last speech, be sent to his Excell<sup>ty</sup> as an answer to the s<sup>t</sup> speech.

WILLIAM RANDOLPH, Jun<sup>r</sup>, clk. Ho. Burg.

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[PETITION OF LIGHTFOOT, CARTER AND LUDWELL.]

Mr. Speaker & Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses:

Since you have not thought fitt to admitt us Personally to give you our reasons ag<sup>t</sup> yo<sup>r</sup> intermeddling w<sup>th</sup> ye complaints, &c., ag<sup>t</sup> his Excell<sup>ty</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> He hath laid before you, we have put some few of them in writing w<sup>ch</sup> we here send you, & we desire your serious consideration of them before you proceed to any determination in that affair. We are,

Gents. yo<sup>r</sup> most Humble Servants,

J. LIGHTFOOT,  
ROBERT CARTER,  
PHILL. LUDWELL.

Directed on ye back:

Mr. Speaker & Gents. of the House of Burgesses.

Reasons offered by John Lightfoot, Robert Carter & Philip Ludwell, Esq<sup>r</sup>, ag<sup>t</sup> the making any Determination by the House of Burgesses, upon the complaint & affidavits ag<sup>t</sup> his Excell<sup>ty</sup>:

1st. That the complaint was made by the greater part of the Council then in being, who had given their attendance upon the publick affairs & were both Eye & Ear witnesses of the mismanage<sup>mt</sup> there, & therefore they were the most Proper Persons & ye most likely to make a true Representation thereof, & since her Maj<sup>ty</sup> hath been pleased to appoint them of the Councill & thereby hath made it their Proper Province to give the best advice they can for preserving her Maj<sup>ty</sup>'s Interest & ye Peace &

Welfare of her Subjects here, they take it to be a Duty incumbent upon them in case of ye Mal-Administration of a Govern<sup>r</sup> to apply themselves to their Sovereign for Redress & this they think they have a right to do without being lyable to any censure but that of her Maj<sup>ty</sup> & they think that both her Maj<sup>ty</sup>'s service & this Country's interest will be greatly promoted thereby.

2nd. That the matters contained in the Complaint for the most part are Mal-Administrations in ye Councill, in ye Gen<sup>l</sup> Court & in ye Upper House of ye Gen<sup>l</sup> Assembly, so that the Councill are not only the best acquainted w<sup>th</sup> the transactions there, but also are most nearly concerned in them as relating chiefly to their Libertys & Priviledges in w<sup>ch</sup> the House of Burgesses have no right to intermeddle.

3rd. That the Complaint consists of matters of fact w<sup>ch</sup> are provable by Evidences & the Complainants are able to make sufficient proof of them whenever they shall be lawfully impowered so to do, but at present they cannot do it because her Majesty hath not thought fitt to give any Direction therein & they cannot believe that the House of Burgesses will ever be guilty of so great an absurdity as to proceed to Judgement of the truth or falsehood of any matter of Fact w<sup>ch</sup> doth not lye within their own knowledge without Examining such Evidence as can be given to make proof thereof.

4th. That (whatever hath been suggested) the Complainants have always been very far from endeavouring to raise Partys & Factions or to disturb ye peace of ye Country, on the contrary their great Moderation hath appeared in the Patience & Submission they have Shewed notwithstanding the many Injuries & Indignities (not to be mentioned) that have been putt upon themselves & others by the Govern<sup>r</sup> unjustifiable behaviour & in this particular case they addressed themselves in the most Peaceable & humble manner to Her Maj<sup>ty</sup> ye proper fountain of Justice for their relief & she hath been graciously pleased to take the same into her own cognizance so that the House of Burgesses cannot concern themselves in this matter without Arrogating to themselves a Power to make a Previous determination to that of her Maj<sup>ty</sup> in an affair wh<sup>ch</sup> She hath been pleased in an Especial manner to reserve for her own consideration.

5th. That it appears plainly by her Maj<sup>ty</sup>'s Order in Councill &

by the Lett<sup>r</sup> from the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Lord's Comm<sup>rs</sup> for trade that the Complaint & other Papers were sent to ye Govern<sup>r</sup> for him to make his answer, not that they should be brought to any tryall or Determination here. It is so far from that that he is commanded not to shew so much as any manner of resentment ag<sup>t</sup> the complainants till her Maj<sup>ty</sup>'s pleasure be further known; And it is impossible the House of Burgesses should take upon them to make any Judgement in this matter without going direct contrary to her Maj<sup>ty</sup>'s Pleasure in this Particular & to ye very express Lett<sup>r</sup> as well as intent of the Command of the Lords Commissioners for trade.

6th. That the House of Burgesses cannot take upon them to intermeddle in this affair without making themselves Judges of the Rights & Privileges of ye Council w<sup>th</sup> in consequence may create lasting Divisions & Misunderstandings between them & the Burgesses, for whatever Determination shall be made it cannot be supposed that the Complainants will be so far wanting either in their Duty to her Maj<sup>ty</sup> or in their regard to their own Characters or the Countrys Interest as to sit still patiently & not Endeavour to sett all persons & their Proceedings in a true light. And it is not improvable but the Misfortunes y<sup>t</sup> may ensue to the Country upon such Differences may be what is chiefly aimed att.

7th. That the Complainants have been very cautious of concerning themselves w<sup>th</sup> the House of Burgesses, that they might not give them the least Umbrage of Dissatisfaction. And surely ye House of Burgesses have great reason to be as cautious, that they do not themselves sow those seeds of Discord & Contention w<sup>th</sup> may in a short time grow up to interrupt the peace & happiness of the whole Country.

J. LIGHTFOOT,  
ROBERT CARTER,  
PHILL. LUDWELL.

Copy Test: WILLIAM RANDOLPH, JUN<sup>r</sup> R, Cl. Ho. Burg.

"Memorandum that the House of Burgesses had the Lett<sup>r</sup> read but would do nothing in it."

A Copy.

## [ADDRESS OF NICHOLSON TO THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES.]

Mr. Speaker & Gent<sup>s</sup> of the House of Burgesses:

I am heartily sorry that I speak to you upon a Subject so disagreeable to me, but if I did not I think I should fail in my Duty to God Almighty & her most Sacred Maj<sup>ty</sup> & be wanting in the Great Love & Respect, I had & allways have for the Welfare & Prosperity of ye Inhabitants of this her Maj<sup>ties</sup> most ancient & great Colony & Dominion of Virginia.

Six of her Maj<sup>ties</sup> hon<sup>ble</sup> Councill were pleased to Petition her most sacred Maj<sup>ty</sup> ag<sup>t</sup> me as likewise sign a Memoriall containing Accusations, &c. of Mal-Administration, &c., &c. Six Gentlemen in England have made affidavits aga<sup>t</sup> me whereof one is ye Revn<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> James Blair, who also signed the Petition. Her Maj<sup>ty</sup> hath been most graciously Pleased to refer this affair to ye R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> the L<sup>ds</sup> Comm<sup>rs</sup> for Trade & Plantations, who Proceeded thereupon, and their Lordships have been pleased to send me Authentick Copys of the Petition, Memoriall & affidavits & other Papers concerning them, as likewise her Maj<sup>ties</sup> Royall Order in Councill, all w<sup>ch</sup> I now give to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> ye Speaker as likewise a copy of the Proceedings here in Councill thereupon. As for what hath been done this Gen<sup>l</sup> Court, this so many of you having been, both Eye & Ear Witnesses, I will not here Pretend to give you an acc<sup>t</sup> thereof. If these Gent<sup>s</sup> had only confined their Complaints ag<sup>t</sup> me to what related to themselves, I would not have troubled you w<sup>th</sup> these Papers, but I think they have taken upon them to represent, as if the bett<sup>r</sup> part of the Country, were of their Sentiments, and that the publick Peace & Tranquility of this country, was in Danger, and its circumstances Deplorable and pray that the Government may be put into other hands, &c. for my part I never heard before that these things were so & I think there is a Law in the Country w<sup>ch</sup> Directs how the Grievances of the Inhabitants shall be represented, and whether there are or have been Grievances from yo<sup>r</sup> severall Countys, or any of them concerning my Mal-Administration, &c., and that the Country is not in peace & quietness, & that the People whom you represent, Desire that I may be no longer their Govern<sup>r</sup> you know best. I don't in any manner reflect upon these Gent<sup>s</sup>

for Petitioning her most Sacred Maj<sup>ty</sup> & how well satisfied I am w<sup>th</sup> that affair, will appear to you by ye Journall of the council.

Gentlemen: If I were conscious to myself that the five hundred part of ye Inhabitants here would join in their Petition & Memorial to her Maj<sup>ty</sup> & approve of their Affidavits, I should think myself in duty bound, for ye reasons above, so far to quitt the Governmen<sup>t</sup> as was justifiable in me, & to Petition her most sacred Maj<sup>ty</sup> that I may lay by her Maj<sup>ty</sup>'s Commission to me at her Royall Feet. I had rather lye in a Goal & live upon bread & water, as an honest man, than to have the Greatest Hon<sup>r</sup> & Estate in the World & to be such a man as they have represented me; But I hope in God that it will not appear to you that I am such an ill-man, but how industrious some People have been in ye Country, & since yo<sup>r</sup> meeting to have endeavored to prove or Insinuate that I am such a one, & that yo<sup>r</sup> Libertys, Propertys, &c., are going to be invaded. I suppose you know well enough, you will find by those Papers, what characters are given of severall Bodys of Men in this Country & it is insinuated as if some of the Records were not true, this, I think, you will do well very wisely to inquire into & I recommend to you to give directions when they shall be removed to the Capitoll & who shall see it done. You will find by M<sup>r</sup> Blair's s<sup>d</sup> Affidavit that he accused me for not having endeavored to gett you to assist ye Colledge in their Necessity tho' I had ye best Opportunity, by ye Country's enjoying the use of the Colledge for the Assemblys Courts & Councils while ye Capitoll was a building. I am likewise taxed by him for severall things concerning the Colledge, w<sup>ch</sup> I recommend to you to inquire into, as likewise what he accuses me of in the said Memoir<sup>ll</sup> concerning Induction of Ministers, Whether I have refused to Induct any that have been legally presented to me. Mr. Blair in his first Affidavit, hath filled ye latter part of it with very strange sort of an Acco<sup>t</sup> concerning my Designs of bringing in an arbitrary Govern<sup>t</sup> by a Military Force, particularly of the fifth Men. If he is no better a Divine than a Soldier, I think he understands Divinity very little, but whether the Country are of the same Sentiments w<sup>th</sup> him I suppose you must know. I think it very strange that I should never hear of this nor any other Design that I am accused of, in my Travells through the Country or from ye



House of Burgesses, or that they had addressed Her most Sacred Maj<sup>ty</sup> ag<sup>t</sup> me, w<sup>ch</sup> things no Doubt they would have done (for they did it ag<sup>t</sup> one of my Predecessors), if they had had just cause so to do, but I thank God y<sup>t</sup> instead of these things, I have received from you addresses quite of another nature & that both before & since the Petition, &c. I should justly Deserve that worst of Characters Ingratitude, if I did not return you my most hearty thanks for them. And that God Almighty will be pleased to direct us all to do what shall be for his Glory, her Maj<sup>ty</sup>'s interest & service, as likewise of this Her Maj<sup>ty</sup>'s Collony & Dominion of Virginia are the most cordial prayers of me.

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[PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES.]

Friday, May ye 4th, 1705.

By the House of Delegates.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this House, that his Excell<sup>ty</sup> the Present Govern<sup>r</sup> has a great respect for the Welfare and prosperity of this Country, & that the better part of her Maj<sup>ty</sup>'s good & Loyall Subjects here are not of the same sentiments w<sup>ch</sup> that part of the Councill w<sup>ch</sup> have accused his Excell<sup>ty</sup> of Mal-Administration.

Saturday, May ye 5th, 1705.

Resolved, That the Public Peace & tranquility of the Country is under no Danger by his Excell<sup>ty</sup> Administration, & that the far greater part of the Inhabitants are very quiet & well satisfied, being in Peace & Quietness, without the least Desire of having his Excell<sup>ty</sup> removed from being their Govern<sup>r</sup>.

Resolved, That it doth not appear that the People whom this House doth Represent, have complained ag<sup>t</sup> his Excell<sup>ty</sup> for any Hardships or Mal-Administration.

Resolved, *Nemine Contradicente* & accordingly ordered, That ye Records belonging to ye Secretarys Office, & the Records belonging to the Assembly Office be removed to the Capitoll w<sup>th</sup> all convenient expedition & that the Respective clerks take care to see the same done.

Resolved, That it no way appears to this House that his Excell<sup>ty</sup> hath any Design to introduce any Arbitrary Power by a Military force of the fifth Men, or any other way, or that he hath

endeavored to invade the libertys & Propertys of her Maj<sup>ty</sup>s Subjects here.

Resolved, That his Excell<sup>ty</sup> doth still meritt the worthy Characters w<sup>th</sup> hath been heretofore given him by this House in sev<sup>l</sup> Address.

Resolved, That whoever pretends to take upon himself to represent the Country in Gen<sup>l</sup> under any Grievance or Pressure, without the Consent & Authority of the House so to do, is there by guilty of an unwarrantable act, tending to the Prejudice of the Country.

WILLIAM RANDOLPH, JUN<sup>R</sup>,

A Copy.  
Mr. Speaker, &c.

Cl. Ho. Burg.

[ADDRESS OF NICHOLSON TO THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES.]

Mr. Speaker & Gent<sup>s</sup> of the House of Burgesses:

I have read your address to Her Maj<sup>ty</sup> just now brought in & according to your Desire I shall take care to have it transmitted to her most sacred Maj<sup>ty</sup>, but I hope you never Designed that this address should ever be made use of ag<sup>t</sup> me, and I desire that you will be pleased to declare so.

[PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES.]

Saturday, May ye 12th, 1705.

By the House of Burgesses.

Resolved, That this House did not Intend that their address to her Maj<sup>ty</sup> ag<sup>t</sup> Coll<sup>o</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Quarry should be made use of ag<sup>t</sup> his Excell<sup>ty</sup>.

Test: WILLIAM RANDOLPH, JUN<sup>R</sup>,  
Cl. Ho. Burg.

[STATEMENT BY CERTAIN COUNCILLORS.]

May ye 12th, 1705.

Whereas it was moved by his Excell<sup>ty</sup> to us the Subscribers, Members of her Maj<sup>ty</sup>s Councill of Virginia, whether his Excell<sup>ty</sup> our Present Govern<sup>r</sup> has a great respect for ye Welfare & Prosperity of this Country, & whether we are of the same sentiments

w<sup>th</sup> those six Gentlemen of ye Councill that have complained ag<sup>t</sup> his Excell<sup>cy</sup> to her Maj<sup>ty</sup> & whether the Public Peace & tranquillity of the Country are in Danger by his Excell<sup>cy</sup>'s administration or whether we have any just cause of complaining ag<sup>t</sup> him, or if we are well satisfied w<sup>th</sup> his being our Govern<sup>r</sup>.

To which we humbly offer that we can no ways agree with those six Gentlemen of the Councill that have complained to her Maj<sup>ty</sup> ag<sup>t</sup> His Excell<sup>cy</sup> being not Privey to their reasons, & to the best of our knowledge the Country is now in as good Peace & Quietness as ever, except it be the Dissatisfaction of some particular Persons. And that we are well satisfied w<sup>th</sup> his Excell<sup>cy</sup>'s being our Govern<sup>r</sup>, and as to his Excell<sup>cy</sup>'s Respect to the Country, we have no reason to believe but that he has as great a Respect for it as formerly.

JOHN CUSTIS,\*      HEN. DUKE,  
JOHN SMITH,      JOHN LEWIS.†

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[BARRING OUT† AT WILLIAM AND MARY.]

I, William Robertson make oath that at Christmas 1702 I was

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\* Colonel John Custis, of the Council, died in 1713. His son, Major John Custis, of Williamsburg, and of "Arlington," Northampton county, was appointed to the Council in 1727, and was the father of Daniel Parke Custis, first husband of Mrs. Washington.

† John Lewis, of "Warner Hall," Gloucester county, married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Augustine Warner, of Warner Hall, and died in 1725. His epitaph is as follows:

" Here lyeth Interred  
the Body of Collo. John Lewis,  
son of John and Isabella Lewis,  
and one of his Majestys Hon'ble  
Council for this Colony, who was  
born ye 30th of November, 1660, & departed  
this Life on ye 14th of November, 1725.

‡ This was an ancient practice in English schools, and was of long continuance in this country. An old gentleman, who died a few years ago, used to tell of the barring out episodes in which he had taken part at an academy in Chesterfield county.

Clerk of William and Mary College, and lodged there when the School boys shutt out their Master. I was called out of bed to come down to Mr. Blair who I heard talking w<sup>th</sup> them & persuading them to open the door, but that not succeeding he went to break it open and called for a Negro man & a white servant for that purpose. And when the negro went about breaking open the door, one of the Boys fired at him with Powder. They fired two or three times beside that whenever anybody came nigh to break open the door, but I did not perceive that they had any manner of shott, or made use of any, nor did I hear that they had provided shott to the best of my remembrance. I don't remember that I heard any such caution given by the Boys to Mr. Blair as is mentioned in his Affidavit of the 1st of May 1704, nor do I know of any design the Boys had at that time except it was for obtaining leave to break up sooner. As to the Custom of shutting out the Masters I heard it was first practiced in 1699 and that the school boys had provided fire arms but they were discovered and taken away by one of the Masters, and in 1701 I heard they shutt out the Masters again, but as I was not then concerned about the College nor present at any of those times, I can say nothing of my own knowledge.

What I have set down is the truth.

WILL ROBERTSON.

The above affidavit sworn before us this 3rd day of May 1705.

1705.                      HEN. DUKE,        JOHN LEWIS.  
                                 JOHN SMITH,

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I, John Allen usher of the Grammar School of William & Mary College do make Oath that when the School Boys of the College shutt out the Master before Christmas 1702 I was then in the College & present with Mr. Blair almost all the night, but I dont remember that I heard any of the Boys caution Mr. Blair not to offer to come in, saying that they had Shott & would certainly fire at any one that first entered, As he says in his Affidavit of the first of May 1704, Neither can I learn that they had any Shott, having made strict enquiry among the boys.

As to the Custome of Shutting out the Master which Mr. Blair says was banished & quite left off for some years, I do affirme that it was always practiced from the first bringing of it in, to the year 1704 complained of in the Affidavit except in the year 1700, when the Gen<sup>l</sup> Assembly mett in the College Hall the 5th of Decembe<sup>r</sup> & continued Sitting till the 27th thereof, for which reason the Scholars were dismissed sooner than ordinary. And I do very well remember that at Christmas in the year 1699 when I was a Scholar, We Shutt the Doors against our Masters at which time his Excell<sup>cy</sup> gave us money to buy Victuals & Drink & after we had obtained leave to be dismissed & had opened the School Doors, Mr. Blair himself together with Sev<sup>l</sup> of his Relations participated of the entertainm<sup>t</sup> which we had provided with the money aforesaid, at which time we had powder, Guns, Pistols, Swords & other Arms but were taken from us by Surprise.

JOHN ALLEN.

The above affidavit sworn before us the 3rd day of May 1705.

1705.

HEN. DUKE,      JOHN LEWIS.  
JOHN SMITH,

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I the subscriber Head Master of the Grammer School of William & Mary College, in Virg<sup>a</sup>, having seen and considered an Affidavit of M<sup>r</sup> Commissary Blair, sworn the first day of May, 1704, wherein amongst other things, he taxes his Excell<sup>cy</sup> Francis Nicholson, Esq<sup>r</sup>, her Majesty's Lieutenant Governor Gen<sup>l</sup> of Virg<sup>a</sup> with giving money to the School boys of the said School to buy powder & Shot, when they shut me out, at Christmas, 1702, and that he has too much reason to fear it was contrived on purpose for him, insinuating thereby, that his Excell<sup>cy</sup> designed the boys should kill him.

I do therefore make oath that I know not the least ground for such a suggestion, having made strict enquiry amongst the scholars if they had any shott, or knew of any harm design'd against Mr. Blair, who all unanimously declare that they had not the least grain of Shott, and that they did not buy any powder with the money which the Governor gave them but victuals

& drink for a treat, as they used to do on the like occasion, & that the powder which they made use of, was a small portion, which they had reserved from their other pastimes long before, and that they had no other design in shutting up the school doors, but only to be dismissed a little sooner than ordinary.

As to what Mr. Blair says that some of the boys gave him warning of the shott and pray<sup>d</sup> him for God's sake not to enter, &c., I cannot learn from any then present that ever they heard of such a caution. And as to what he says that we had banished the custom of shutting out the Master, and that it was quite left off for some years, I do from my own knowledge affirm that it was practiced every year from the first bringing in of it, to the year complained of, except in the year 1700, when the Gen<sup>l</sup> Assembly mett in the College Hall in December, a little before the usual time of our breaking up and I dismissed my scholars sooner than ordinary upon that Acco<sup>t</sup>. I do further affirm that the Boys had powder & more fire arms and other arms first time that they practised this custom, than at the time complain<sup>d</sup> of, for I took them from them, and that Mr. Blair was so far from suspecting anything of what he now insinuates, that he went in with Sundry of his Relations, after the Boys surrendered, and participated of the entertainment made by the boys on that occasion with the money which his Excell<sup>ty</sup> gave them, and I never heard of any complaint of this nature either from Mr. Blair or any other all the times that the above custom was practiced until some time agoe in a Lett<sup>r</sup> of Doct<sup>r</sup> Bray, & of late in the above Affidavit of Mr. Blair.

MONGO INGLES, Head Master.

The within affidavit sworne before us on the 3rd day of May,  
1705.

HEN. DUKE,            JOHN LEWIS.  
1705.                 JOHN SMITH,

### Historical and Genealogical Notes and Queries.

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**PINCKARD.**—Information is desired which will aid in compiling a full genealogy of the Pinckard family, of Lancaster, Westmoreland, and Northumberland counties, Va., and descendants elsewhere.

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**ERRATA.**—Thomas Kemp (note, p. 128), had sons named Thomas and Peter, and not one with the two names, as would be indicated by the absence of a comma. Jefferson's letter of May 20, 1818, was to Archibald Stuart.

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**THE WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.** BY MRS. ELLET.—Mr. Wm. Abbatt, 281, 4th Ave., N. Y., proposes to publish a new and thoroughly revised edition of this scarce book. Persons interested should communicate with him.

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**CROCKET—CARLYLE.**—Information is desired concerning Colonel Alexander Crockett. Tradition in our family relates that he was from Augusta county, and died of wounds received in the battle of Guilford. His wife was Margaret Carr. I should like to enquire also, concerning George Carlyle, who married Margaret, daughter of Colonel Crockett, afterwards moving to Woodford county, Ky., and thought to have been wounded in the battle of Guilford, also. What I want particularly is documentary evidence to show that these two men actually participated in that or other battles.—D. C. H.

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**WATKINS—BOISSEAU.**—Anner Patrick Watkins was born in Charlotte county, Va., April 17, 1787. She was a daughter of Joseph Watkins and Mary (called Polly) Boisseau. Can any one give me names of parents of either Joseph Watkins or Mary Boisseau, or of the place and date of their marriage. They lived in both Charlotte and Chesterfield counties. Address: CHAS. L. PULLEN, 618 Common street,  
New Orleans, La.

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**NELSON.**—Can any one give me any information of the family of Frances Nelson, who married Mr. Dent, between 1800 and 1805.—FRANCES N. SMITH, Chatham county, Montgomery, Ga.

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**RICE.**—Information wanted in regard to Thomas Rice, of Hanover county, Va. Signed deed in 1735, with wife Joyce. Afterwards moved